

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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-- Transformed *E. coli* were grown in a shaking incubator to log phase in 1l of LB containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and 25 µg/ml kanamycin. IPTG (2 mM) was added for the final four hours of growth. The cell pellet was suspended in 30 ml PBS and lysed in a French pressure cell at 1000 psi. The hexavalent protein was purified from the supernatant using Ni-NTA resin according to the protocol provided by the manufacturer (Qiagen, Valencia, CA). The elution buffer containing the protein was concentrated from 15 ml to 5 ml in a spin filter (ULTRAFREE®-15, Millipore). Final purification was accomplished by gel filtration over SUPERDEX™ 75 (prep grade, Pharmacia Biotech). The active fraction was identified by Western blots (Dale, J.B. and Beachey, E.H., "Multiple heart-cross-reactive epitopes of streptococcal M proteins," *J. Exp. Med.* 161:113-122, 1985) using rabbit antiserum against pep M24 (Beachey et al., "Purification and properties of M protein extracted from group A streptococci with pepsin: Covalent structure of the amino terminal region of the type 24 M antigen," *J. Exp. Med.* 145:1469-1483, 1977). Total protein concentration was determined by standard methods and the sample was diluted in PBS to contain 200 µg/ml of hexavalent protein. Purity of the samples was determined by gel scanning (PHOTOSHOP™ digital image and COLLAGE™ image analysis).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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-- Two groups of three rabbits each were immunized with 100 µg of hexavalent vaccine either precipitated with alum or emulsified in complete Freund's adjuvant. For precipitation in alum, the hexavalent protein (200 µg/ml) was added to an equal volume of aluminum hydroxide (2 mg/ml) (REHYDRAGEL™ HPA, Reheis, Inc., Berkeley Heights, NJ) and mixed gently at 4°C overnight. The hexavalent protein was also emulsified in CFA at a final concentration of 100 µg/ml. Rabbits that received the hexavalent vaccine in alum were given 100 µg i.m. as an initial injection and the same dose was repeated at 4, and 8 weeks. The second